

PATENT APPLICATION COVER SHEET
Attorney Docket No. 1503.68346

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

9-15-03
Date


Express Mail Label No.: EV032734921US

DRESSMAKING KIT SHOP
AND MAIL-ORDER SYSTEM

INVENTORS:

Kenichi AYUKAWA
Yuichi SATO

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.
300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312.360.0080
Facsimile: 312.360.9315
CUSTOMER NO. 24978

APPLICATION FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT
SPECIFICATION

Inventor(s): Kenichi AYUKAWA and Yuichi SATO

Title of the Invention: DRESSMAKING KIT SHOP AND MAIL-ORDER
SYSTEM

DRESSMAKING KIT SHOP AND MAIL-ORDER SYSTEM

Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a shop that sells dressmaking kits, in particular it relates to a space-saving dressmaking kit shop.

Description of the Related Art

10 Dressmaking population has drastically declined. For example, in many colleges and high schools, dressmaking classes and home economics classes are no longer available due to the shortage of students.

 Therefore, it is desired to make people interested
15 in dressmaking and to prevent their numbers from decreasing.

 For this reason, dressmaking schools have been opened and a sewing method has been taught using a sewing machine. However, even a small-scaled dressmaking
20 school requires a floor space of at least 33m². Therefore, it cannot be easily opened in terms of a floor space. The opening cost of such a school is also high.

 If the space needed to open such a dressmaking school is limited, its advertisement effect depends on
25 the location of such a dressmaking school.

Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to make customers interested in dressmaking and to provide a shop in which customers can experience sewing on the spot.

In one aspect of the present invention, the dressmaking kit shop is a dressmaking kit shop at which customers can experience sewing and which sells dressmaking kits. The dressmaking kit shop comprises dressmaking kit shelves, a sewing machine mounted on a stand and a replay device replaying a sewing method recorded on a storage medium.

In this case, a dressmaking kit, a sewing machine and a replay device replaying a storage medium which records a method for sewing clothes of prescribed designs (for example, a T-shirt, training wear, etc.) are located at the dressmaking kit shop.

By adopting such a configuration, a dressmaking kit shop can be opened in a small area of, for example, 3.3m² to 16.5m².

The area of the dressmaking kit shop is not limited to the value described above. For the storage medium recording the sewing method, a video cassette tape, a DVD, or the like is used.

Customers can experience sewing using the sewing machine, etc., by replaying the storage medium that records a sewing method by the replay device.

Thus, making customers interested in dressmaking,
5 and leading them to purchase, for example, dressmaking kits, textiles, etc.

Furthermore, since the area of the dressmaking kit shop requires only a small floor space, it can be opened even in a place where a lot of people gather (for example,
10 a mass merchandiser), thereby being also capable of improving the advertisement effect of an affiliated dressmaking school. Specifically, customers can know the existence of a dressmaking school through the sewing experience at the dressmaking kit shop. Alternatively,
15 such a role can be shared with a dressmaking kit shop and a dressmaking school as follows. That is, T-shirts, training wear, etc., which can be easily sewn, are sewn in a dressmaking kit shop, and front-opened cardigans, etc., which require a more complex process, are sewn
20 in a dressmaking school. A dressmaking school can also be temporarily opened in the general floor space of a mass merchandiser, etc.

In another aspect of the present invention, the dressmaking kit shop further comprises textile shelves
25 storing textiles. A customer that experiences sewing

in a dressmaking shop has a desire to try a plurality of different textiles for one design. The textile shelves are provided to satisfy such a desire of a customer.

5 In another aspect of the present invention, the dressmaking kit shop further comprises storage shelves storing either a sewing machine or a storage medium.

 The dressmaking kit shop can also sell textiles stored on the textile shelves. It can also sell a storage
10 medium, which records a sewing method. It can also sell a sewing machine.

 In another aspect of the present invention, the dressmaking kit includes at least one of textiles, dress patterns, and sewing manuals.

15 In another aspect of the present invention, dressmaking kits to be sold at such a dressmaking kit shop are sold through a network.

Brief Description of the Drawings

20 Fig. 1 is the perspective illustration of a dressmaking kit shop in the first preferred embodiment;

 Fig. 2 is the top view of a dressmaking kit shop in the first preferred embodiment;

 Fig. 3A is a first layout variation of a
25 dressmaking kit shop in the first preferred embodiment;

Fig. 3B is a second layout variation of a dressmaking kit shop in the first preferred embodiment; and

Fig. 4 shows the rough configuration of a mail-order system in the second preferred embodiment.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The preferred embodiments of the present invention are described below with reference to the drawings.

<The First Preferred Embodiment>

In this preferred embodiment, a customer visits a dressmaking kit shop and experiences sewing. Then, the customer purchases goods sold at the dressmaking kit shop, if necessary.

Fig. 1 is the perspective illustration of the dressmaking kit shop of this preferred embodiment. Fig. 2 is a top view of this dressmaking kit shop.

As shown in Fig. 1, the dressmaking kit shop 1 of this preferred embodiment comprises textile shelves 3 storing textiles 2, shelves 11 storing dressmaking kits 4, a sewing machine 5 and a replay device 8 replaying storage media 6, such as video cassette tapes, DVDs, etc., which record how to sew.

The textile shelves 3 store textiles. When a

customer wants to sew clothes of a prescribed design using several different textiles, the customer selects from the different textiles and sews the clothes of the prescribed design using the textiles. Then, the customer
5 checks the finished clothes.

Instead of a customer, for example, a clerk of a dressmaking kit shop can also sew clothes in order to show how to sew clothes of a prescribed design by the sewing machine 5 using textiles 2 stored on the textile
10 shelves 3 and textiles included in the dressmaking kit 4.

For textiles stored on textile shelves, pre-cut or uncut textiles can be used.

The dressmaking shop 1 does not necessarily
15 comprise textile shelves 3.

Finished sample works 10 can also be displayed on a display net 9.

It is preferable for the dressmaking kit shop 1 to comprise shelves 7 storing the storage media 6. The
20 shelves 7 can also store books on how to sew, the sewing machine 5 and etc. in addition to the storage media 6.

As shown in Fig. 2, if stretchable textiles are sewn, it is preferable to use a lock sewing machine 5a for seaming and a straight-line sewing machine 5b for
25 the post-process of seaming, as the sewing machine 5.

The sewing machine for the post-process of seaming is not limited to the straight-line sewing machine 5b.

The dressmaking kit 4 sold at the dressmaking kit shop 1 comprises textiles, dress patterns and manuals on how to sew. The contents of the manuals on how to sew are almost the same as those of the storage media. However, the contents of the manuals can also be somewhat simplified. The textiles contained in the dressmaking kit can be pre-cut or uncut textiles.

10 Matching a design with textiles suitable for the design is essential for the learning of dressmaking. However, conventionally, such matching of a design with textile suitable for the design has not been made. Taking such matching into consideration, the dressmaking kit
15 4 contains textiles suitable for each design (for example, T-shirts, training wear, etc.).

The operation of the dressmaking kit shop of this preferred embodiment is described below.

A customer is interested in dressmaking and visits
20 this dressmaking kit shop 1. Then, the customer watches the pictures stored in a storage medium 6, such as a video cassette tape, a DVD, etc., replayed by the replay device 8, gets interested in dressmaking or feel that a T-shirt or training wear is easy to sew, and become
25 anxious to sew a T-shirt or training wear.

In this preferred embodiment, customers can experience sewing on the spot. This is because in the dressmaking kit shop of this preferred embodiment, dressmaking kits and a sewing machine are provided in
5 a small space, and that a customer can sew a T-shirt or training wear while watching a video cassette tape (or reading a book on how to sew) on the spot.

The dressmaking kit shop of this preferred embodiment can be opened in a small space. For example,
10 it can even be opened in a place with a great advertisement effect, such as a mass-merchandiser, etc. Therefore, not only the advertisement effect of a dressmaking kit shop, but also that of its affiliated dressmaking school are great.

15 The sewing process recorded on a video cassette tape is briefly described below.

It is assumed that in a dressmaking kit shop, a customer sews a T-shirt, using an expandable textile, such as knit, etc. The customer seams the respective
20 shoulder line cut edges of a front body and a rear body by a lock sewing machine 5a. In the case of expandable textiles, such as knit, etc., an original pattern cannot be sustained without using a lock sewing machine.

For example, a T-shirt is sewn through such a
25 sewing process.

A design is not limited to a T-shirt. Generally, there is basically no need to simplify a sewing process recorded on the storage medium 6. However, taking into consideration the fact that most customers lack
5 experience sewing, it is preferable to simplify the sewing process. For example, when seaming front and rear bodies to be seamed by a lock sewing machine, by temporarily fixing the bodies by a freely detachable/attachable fixtures, such as clothes pins,
10 etc., the sewing process can be simplified.

If a customer becomes at a loss how to sew, the customer can also seek guidance from the clerk (salesperson) of a dressmaking kit shop.

If the dressmaking kit shop of this preferred
15 embodiment is franchised, an instructor dispatched from its franchise headquarters can also work as its clerk. In that case, customers can seek guidance from the instructor.

The franchise headquarters can also limit the
20 education target of the clerks of dressmaking kit shops to designs for a T-shirt, training wear, etc., that can be sewn in a relatively simple process.

Furthermore, later, customers can also visit the affiliated dressmaking school of the dressmaking kit
25 shop and experience sewing there. In this case,

dressmaking kit purchasers can also be guided with priority.

The dressmaking kit shop can also sell books on how to sew knit, storage media, such as video cassette
5 tapes, DVDs, etc., which record how to sew knit, textiles stored in textile shelves, and the like, in addition to dressmaking kits.

Furthermore, the dressmaking kit shop of this preferred embodiment can also sell designs made there
10 using the sewing machine by the clerks and instructor of the dressmaking kit shop that have prescribed skills. Alternatively, the dressmaking kit shop of this preferred embodiment can sell designs made in other places.

15 The layout of a dressmaking kit shop is not limited to that shown in Fig. 1. Figs. 3A and 3B show variations of the layout.

<The Second Preferred Embodiment>

20 Although in the first preferred embodiment, customers visit a dressmaking kit shop and purchase dressmaking kits, in this preferred embodiment, customers purchase goods, such as dressmaking kit, etc., by a mail order through a network, such as the Internet,
25 etc.

Fig. 4 shows the rough configuration of this mail-order system. In Fig. 4, a customer at a terminal 21, being the purchaser of goods, is connected to a seller of goods at a terminal 22 through a network. The seller presents the catalog of goods on a homepage, etc., on the Internet. This catalog of goods includes dressmaking kits, books on how to sew, storage media, such as video cassette tapes, DVDs, etc., which record how to sew, textiles, and the like. The customer, being the purchaser of goods accesses the homepage and issues a purchase request 23. Then, a sales agreement is concluded. Then, the customer sends the price of the purchased goods to the seller, and the seller delivers the purchased goods to the customer.

As described above, in the present invention, the dressmaking kit shop can be opened in a small space. For example, it can be opened in a floor space of 3.3m^2 to 16.5m^2 .

The space is not limited to the value.

Since the dressmaking kit shop of the present invention requires only a small space, such shops can be easily distributed.

Since the dressmaking kit shop of the present invention comprises a sewing machine and a replay device replaying how to sew recorded on a storage medium, such

as a video cassette tape, a DVD, etc., customers can experience sewing on the spot.

Furthermore, since the dressmaking kit shop requires only a small space, it can be opened even in
5 a place with a great advertisement effect, such as a mass-merchandiser, etc. Therefore, not only the advertisement effect of a dressmaking kit shop, but also that of its affiliated dressmaking school are great.